



July 15, 2009

Dear State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) Retiree:

There are a number of changes that will be occurring to all SHBP members effective January 1, 2010. Due to the significant changes that will impact the Medicare eligible retirees, SHBP meetings this year will focus on the changes for Medicare eligible retirees. The meeting schedule is enclosed for your information.

On October 30, 2008, the Department of Community Health presented to the Board of Community Health a policy that requires all current and future Medicare eligible retirees and covered dependents to enroll in one of the Medicare Advantage Options offered through CIGNA and United Healthcare (UHC) in order to continue to receive the (approximately) 75 percent state subsidy.

There will be changes to the other SHBP options. However, these changes **will not** be addressed at the retiree meetings. Instead, the changes will be explained in the 2010 Retiree Decision Guide that will be mailed to you in late September. Since the meetings are specifically targeted to Medicare eligible retirees, you may not wish to attend. You are welcome to come; however, space may be limited. If you plan to attend a meeting that is being held at a technical school, the name of the technical college may have changed from what is shown on this schedule due to planned name changes this summer.

This year the Retiree Option Change Period will be held October 9 - November 10, 2009 and informational packets will be mailed to retirees' homes for receipt around October 1.

If you are hearing - impaired and require an interpreter for the meeting you plan to attend, please call Jean Giles at (404) 656-4594 by July 27, 2009 so that we can accommodate your needs. The presentation and 2010 Plan information will be available on the Web site at www.dch.georgia.gov/shbp in August.

Sincerely,

State Health Benefit Plan